

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-12 are allowed. Claims 4, 6 and 7 are rejected. Applicant has amended claims 4, 6 and 7 to depend from claim 1.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings filed on September 7, 2004 because the reference characters are not mentioned in the description. The Examiner finds the drawings otherwise acceptable.

Applicant believes that the basis for objection is more appropriate for the specification, rather than the drawings, as the drawings are acceptable. In order to comply with the Examiner's request, Applicant has amended the specification to now refer to the steps in Fig. 13 as steps "S1A-S8A" and the steps in Fig. 7 as steps "S1B-S11B."

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al in view of Miura (6,322,451). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

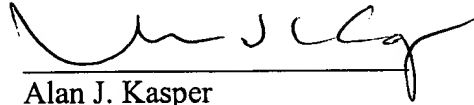
Applicants have now amended claims 4, 6 and 7 to depend from claim 1, which is considered to be allowable. Thus, these claims should be allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No. 09/910,070

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 7, 2005